

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04752 201512Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8736

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 4752

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM MURPHY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SY

SUBJECT: MY RETURN FOR CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 178824

1. I WOULD APPRECIATE CHANCE TO CONSULT WITH YOU ON CURRENT SYRIAN SCENE NEXT WEEK. WILL DEPART DAMASCUS SATURDAY, JULY 24, ARRIVING WASHINGTON SUNDAY NIGHT FOR MEETING JULY 26.

2. I INFORMED PRESIDENT'S PRIVATE SECRETARY DABBOUL AT MEETING THIS AFTERNOON ABOUT MY TRIP. I REQUESTED MEETING WITH ASAD BEFORE DEPARTURE NOTING THAT OUR REVIEW IN WASHINGTON WILL COVER SITUATION IN LIGHT OF COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED FROM HUSSEIN ABOUT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING SYRIA. ALSO MADE POINTS ABOUT OUR STRONG INTEREST IN SEEING SYRIA MAINTAIN ITS INDEPENDENT NATIONAL POLICY AND OUR SUPPORT FOR POLITICAL SOLUTION IT IS SEEKING TO BRING ABOUT IN LEBANON. DABBOUL TOOK CAREFUL NOTES BUT AS USUAL MADE NO GUARANTEE ABOUT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT; HIS MEMORANDUM REQUESTING THE APPOINTMENT WILL BE WITH ASAD THIS AFTERNOON.

3. DABBOUL ALSO ADVISED THAT HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH
SECRET

SECRET

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SHIHABI WHO SAID HE WILL SEE ME AS SOON AS HE RECOVERS

FROM SLIGHT ILLNESS. BY THE TIME I RETURN, I WILL ALSO
HAVE SEEN KHADDAM AND PERHAPS HAYDAR AGAIN. I MET TODAY
WITH NASSERIST MINISTER OF CULTURE KAYYALI WHO URGED WE
FIND WAYS ENCOURAGE SAUDI AND EGYPTIAN SUPPORT FOR
SYRIA. HIS GENERALLY UP-BEAT COMMENTS ON THE PRESENT
SCENE REPORTED SEPTEL.
MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

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